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SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

Oct 17, 1950

Dear General Smith:

Reference is made to ~~Major~~ General Irwin's memorandum of July 20, 1950 and to Admiral Hillenkoetter's memorandum of August 16, 1950, both concerning [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] copies of which were forwarded to the Department for comment. I have delayed answering these communications because their arrival coincided with several proposals on the same general subject which we were in the process of preparing and which it seemed appropriate to include in my reply.

At present there are several problems in the field [REDACTED] which warrant study. The Department of the Army has outlined one; there are a number of others. Accordingly, I believe the time has come for another general study, similar to that made by an inter-departmental committee in 1946, to examine the needs and gaps [REDACTED] in determining the capabilities and responsibilities of each agency and to undertake any corrective measures that may be required. *from the NSCIDs.*

Since the lapse of [REDACTED] originally issued on November 1, 1946 to define [REDACTED] intelligence activities of the agencies concerned, responsibility [REDACTED] has had to be determined by inference. A logical point of departure for a survey, therefore, might well be a review, in the light of subsequent experience, of [REDACTED] in order to determine the desirability of issuing a NSCID on this subject. Problems which would arise during the course of this survey and which I believe warrant study by the agencies concerned include the following:

1. The current decentralization and the gaps in information on [REDACTED] that exist in some of the intelligence agencies, factors which make it difficult if not impossible - as pointed out by the Department of the Army - to conduct effective and prompt name checks and to have immediately available as needed [REDACTED]

Lieutenant General Walter B. Smith  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C.

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2. The desirability of central registries in each agency reflecting and controlling information available to that agency or a completely central registry in one agency representing name information in all intelligence agencies.

25X1 3. Review of the activities of each intelligence agency in the [redacted] to determine whether each is insuring complete coverage of those categories [redacted] in which it has primary responsibility and whether each is prepared to provide such information promptly to other agencies requesting it. 25X1

4. Coordination in the collecting and reporting [redacted] intelligence at foreign posts. 25X1

25X1 5. Coordination in the organization [redacted] Past efforts to systematize the activities of the intelligence agencies in these two fields have followed the practice of separating them into two distinct problems. As the Department of the Army's memorandum suggests these problems are related and experience has shown that the two activities require considerable coordination. 25X1

25X1 6. The acquisition of [redacted] Once again, as the Department of the Army suggests and as we have also experienced, there appears to be a serious gap in the collection and reporting of information on [redacted] required for foreign intelligence purposes. Any general survey into the subject [redacted] cannot be complete unless it considers this problem and attempts to coordinate it with other aspects of [redacted] intelligence. While I recognize that CIA is not a member of the internal security committees chaired by the FBI, the latter is a member of the Intelligence Advisory Committee and as such is in a position to give real assistance in a consideration of this problem. 25X1 25X1

25X1 As I have suggested above, the foregoing represent some of the more important problems now existing in the field [redacted] The momentum gained during [redacted] appears to me to have stopped, and I feel there is need to review the entire field [redacted] in the light of experience and developments since that time. Accordingly, I join in the Department of the Army's recommendation for a survey and in addition, recommend 25X1

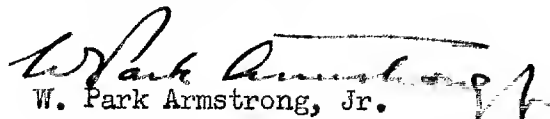
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that this survey be broadened to include other important aspects of the problem. If there is a general agreement with this view, I shall be glad to outline the subjects above in more detail.

Sincerely yours,

  
W. Park Armstrong, Jr.

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